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## PRESS RELEASE

June 28, 2022

To the Citizens of Stephens County:

Today, June 28, 2022, I hosted a meeting with the Stephens County Fire Marshall and Fire Chiefs from the Breckenridge Fire Department, Caddo, Hubbard Creek, and Wayland Volunteer Fire Departments. The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) for Stephens County is 549 (6.28.2022 – Moderate Fire Danger). An index of 575 or higher indicates drought conditions that the Commissioner's Court could restrict, had the conditions been right before June 14, the sale of fireworks with "sticks and fins." Higher indexes could necessitate an Emergency Declaration, as we've seen in counties to our south. As we write this press release, it is raining in the driest parts of the county, which will further lower our fire risk and potentially lower the KBDI index. State fire resources are concentrated in PaloPinto county, and we are mindful of this fact.

Stephens County will not be issuing an emergency declaration. However, we would like to inform you of the steps we have taken to protect our community and let you know how you can help.

- If you don't have property to enjoy fireworks SAFELY, **PLEASE ATTEND ONE OF THE PROFESSIONAL SHOWS.**
- Upon our request, the Firework Stands in Stephens County will not offer fireworks with "sticks or fins." We appreciate their consideration.
- **Violators who use fireworks on county roads will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.**
- **You are civilly and criminally responsible for any fires you may start using fireworks or other activities that could start fires (welding, shredding, etc.).**
- Fire Resources will be deployed in strategic places in the county to respond rapidly to potential fires, regardless of the cause.
- Soak spent fireworks in/with water before discarding them.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.
- Never use illegal fireworks

We consider the burn ban every regularly scheduled meeting of the Commissioners Court. Thank you for being cooperative; we hope you all safely enjoy a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Sincerely,

Michael C. Roach

Stephens County Judge